

Good evening! I'm Laura Fillmore, and I live at 77 High St. I'm speaking to you tonight as a Member of the Ad Hoc Water Committee. This is the longest-standing ad hoc ? Committee in Rockport, having been established in 1987. You may recall I used the Spring Town Meeting as a forum to solicit support for the continuance of the Ad Hoc Water Committee because I was the sole dissenting vote when the other Members voted to disband. My appeal resulted in an affirmative town meeting vote authorizing me to forge ahead, specifically to determine if Rockport had conducted a federally-mandated Water Vulnerability Assessment Study, in compliance with the Patriot Act. I was also charged with the goal of trying to attract other citizen participation.

I am happy to share that two residents, Diane Cartwright and Janet Breiter, responded to my plea, and they have been sworn in by Town Clerk to serve. Since May 26, we have been meeting monthly on the last Tuesday of the month, from 5-6, right here in Town Hall Conference Room A. We hope other residents will wish to join us.

Since late May, our primary focus has been researching whether Rockport has conducted a Water Vulnerability Assessment. The process was circuitous, to say the least, but our perseverance yielded positive results! Largely through the facilitation of Police Chief Horvath and Lt. Schmink, resulting from our meeting with them, the Ad Hoc Water Committee can report to you that Rockport is in full compliance, in this regard. It is our understanding that this confidential document resides with direct oversight by the Water Filtration Plant Supervisor Chris Martin, and the Vulnerability Assessment was conducted by a chemical engineer and licensed personnel in 2002/ 2013 as coordinated by former Plant Supervisor Roy Lee. This plan and documentation is exempt from disclosure under the freedom of information act due to the sensitive nature of the material and homeland security implications.

The Ad Hoc Water Committee is now discerning its mission moving forward. We'd welcome input from this Board and all residents with any suggestions. We have discussed an advocacy role to "conserve and preserve" our Town's most-precious drinking water sources and adjunct bodies.

Currently, we are experiencing uncertainty about "how and if" the Ad Hoc Water Committee should interact, if at all, with other Town bodies to collaborate on

potential water-related initiatives. If, for example, it appeared judicious to build awareness about protecting ground water, or to disseminate information about the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals to safeguard our water supply, or even enlisting a team of volunteers to monitor our potentially-vulnerable water supply, what would be our "process" to move forward?

There's precedent that a Selectman serves as a Liaison with all Town Committees, but, as best I know, this is not the practice with regard to Ad Hoc Water Committee. It's our hope this Board will wish to play a part in our future direction and will assist us in clarifying our current role.